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INFORMATION REPORT

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July 5

COUNTRY W. Salvador DATE DISTR 29 Mar 51 SUBJECT Communist Activities in El Salvador NO. OF PAGES 2 RETURN TO CIA 25X1A PLACE NO. OF ENCLS. LIBRARY ACQUIRED 25X1X DATE OF SUPPLEMENT TO MEO

Jacinto Castellanos Rivas, a Salvadoran, has returned to Salvador, following a lengthy period of residence in Cexico. Prior to his departure from Salvador in 1944, he had been involved in political activity and displayed marked leftist tendencies as an associate of Pedro Geoffroy Rivas, an active Communist and director of the newspaper La Tribuna. Geoffroy was subsequently exiled to Guatemala in July 1945, and since that period has spent time in Mexico and Costa Rica.

25X1A

- According to information received tered for the 1945 term at the Jorkers' University of Mexico. This university was inaugurated in 1936 and was described as "e tool or vehicle which is used by Vicente Lobbardo Toledano as a convenient source of funcs through government subsidies and a front for his various activities." In July 1947, Castellanos was listed as a subscriber to Espana Popular, the official paper of the Spanish Communist Party in Mexico.
- 3. Since his return to Salvador, Castellanos has found e ployment with the Tribuna Libre, and an article which appeared in that newspaper, with his byline, was distinctly anti-American and pointedly critical of United States' business cractices. Two members of the Comunist Party of El Salvador, Gilberto Lara and Victor ". Guirola, have identified Castellanos as a likely candidate for an important position in the local Communist Party, but as yet neither Castellanos nor the Party has been disposed to make the opening move. Both Lara and Guirola say that they have information that Castellanos was a member of the Party in Mexico and that he contributed considerable effort to Party matters in that country.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United Claics.

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CENTRAL INT LLIGENCE AGENCY

Section 2

Recently invitations were issued to a cross-dection of Salvadoran political, professional, labor, and intellectual figures to attend a meeting of a Pro-Peace Congress sponsored by the Conite de Reorganizacion Obrera Sindical (CROS). The first indication of Castellanos' activity in Communist affairs since his return from Mexico was brought to light in connection with this scheduled meeting by the fact that his name was used on the invitations as a supporter of the meeting. However, despite issuance of the invitations, the meeting was abruptly cancelled by CROS leaders when they became convinced that there was a good possibility that the government would use this open display of Communist activity as an excuse for wholesale arrests and liquidation of leftists in El Salvador. Flans for the Congress have not been completely abandoned, and when the atmosphere appears more propitious they hope to proceed with their original project.

CONTILLION